



# ScamAware

## Awareness Through Information Sharing

### Incidents/Articles of Note:

- [NASA Employee Sentenced For COVID-19-Related Loan Fraud \(VA\)](#)
- [VEC: Fraud at unprecedented levels, issues taking weeks to resolve \(VA\)](#)
- [Don't Buy It: Scammers Pose Empty Threats To Cut Electricity \(CA\)](#)
- [Chesterfield woman's life is upended in \\$10 million robocall scam \(VA\)](#)
- [Woman harassed into giving scammers \\$2,000, gun for paving job \(VA\)](#)
- [State police say convicted sex offenders are being targeted, threatened in new phone scam \(VA\)](#)

## TOOLS AND RESOURCES

### Four Signs That It's a Scam

#### 1. Scammers PRETEND to be from an organization you know.

Scammers often pretend to be contacting you on behalf of the government. They might use a real name, like the [Social Security Administration](#), the [IRS](#), or [Medicare](#), or make up a name that sounds official. Some pretend to be from a business you know, like a [utility company](#), a [tech company](#), or even a [charity](#) asking for donations. They use technology to change the phone number that appears on your caller ID. So the name and number you see might not be real.

#### 2. Scammers say there's a PROBLEM or a PRIZE.

They might say you're in trouble with the [government](#). Or you [owe money](#). Or [someone in your family had an emergency](#). Or that there's a [virus on your computer](#). Some scammers say there's a [problem with one of your accounts](#) and that you need to verify some information. Others will lie and say you won money in a [lottery](#) or [sweepstakes](#) but have to pay a fee to get it.

#### 3. Scammers PRESSURE you to act immediately.

Scammers want you to act before you have time to think. If you're [on the phone](#), they might tell you not to hang up so you can't check out their story. They might threaten to arrest you, sue you, take away your driver's or business license, or deport you. They might say your computer is about to be corrupted.

#### 4. Scammers tell you to PAY in a specific way.

They often insist that you pay by [sending money through a money transfer company](#) or by putting money on a [gift card](#) and then giving them the number on the back. Some will send you a [check](#) (that will later turn out to be fake), tell you to deposit it, and then send them money.



Resource | Internal Revenue Service

#### IRS announces "Dirty Dozen" tax scams for 2021

The Internal Revenue Service today began its "Dirty Dozen" list for 2021 with a warning for taxpayers, tax professionals and financial institutions to be on the lookout for these 12 nefarious schemes and scams

[View Resource](#)



Resource | FTC

#### Avoiding and Reporting Scams - Master List

This resource from the Federal Trade Commission is a comply of the most common scams reported. Resources and videos are available free of charge.

[View Resource](#)

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#### Observe Suspicious Activity?

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### Virginia Shield Coalition

#### "Awareness Through Information Sharing"



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VFC Shield

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#### Useful Links

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• [Shield Homepage](#)

• [All Products](#)

• [Report SAR](#)

• [Email Coordinator](#)

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